

REMARKS

The Final Office Action (hereinafter the Action) mailed September 22, 2006 has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-18, 20 and 22-31 remain pending in this application and currently stand rejected. Claims 1, 16, and 27 have been amended to further clarify the claimed subject matter. Claims 6 and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Action rejected claims 1-2, 4, 6-18, 20, and 22-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,907,324 to Larson, *et al.* (hereinafter *Larson*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,631,904 to Fitser (hereinafter *Fitser*) and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0143877 to Hackbarth, *et al.* (hereinafter *Hackbarth*). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims.

Amended claim 1 recites, inter alia, "after allocating the conference bridge port to set up the conference, extracting a current participant communication address from the conference logistics", "if the participant profile data does not include the current participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics, then automatically updating the extracted participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics with the current participant communication address from the participant profile data associated with the participant communication address", "automatically initiating a connection to the conference based on the current participant communication address", and "connecting a communications switch port associated with the current participant communication address to the allocated conference bridge port."

Larson discloses a method of saving, retrieving, and dynamically establishing a plurality of conference parameters. (*Larson*, Abstract, col. 4, lines 43-45) More specifically, *Larson* discloses storing conference characteristics and parameters into a persistent object. The characteristics include conference session information, participant information, application information, document information. Conference session information includes the name of a conference, a description of the objective of the

conference, a reservation number, a scheduled start time, a planned duration of the conference, a maximum number of participants, and other relevant information identifying and/or describing the conference. Participant information includes a name, an address, a call-out number, a call-in number, a password, authentication procedure, an initial status, a most recent status, and preferred color priorities for each of the participants. A call-in number is a bridge number that a participant dials to join a conference session. A call-out number is a participant's telephone number that a MCU dials to connect a participant to a conference. Status indicates whether a participant is active or inactive in the conference. (*Larson*, col. 1 line 58 through col. 2 line 11)

Thus, *Larson* does not teach or suggest "extracting a current participant communication address from the conference logistics", "if the participant profile data does not include the current participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics, then automatically updating the extracted participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics with the current participant communication address from the participant profile data", or "automatically initiating a connection to the conference based on the current participant communication address."

Furthermore, *Larson* specifically recites "the participant profile 76 may also store an initial status and a most recent status of a participant. The status fields may be a simple Boolean field indicating whether or not a participant is active or not active. The most recent status of the participants may be used to determine which of the participants should be automatically connected when a conference is dynamically resumed." (*Larson*, col. 7, lines 58-64) Hence, *Larson* does not even disclose using multiple communication addresses for a participant and determining a current communication address from the addresses for the participant.

The Action relies on the teaching of *Fitser* to attempt to cure the deficiencies of *Larson*. However, like *Larson*, *Fitser* does not teach or suggest a method of automatically establishing a conference as recited by claim 1. In contrast, *Fitser* describes a method for automatically establishing a conference call to a preselected list of prospective participants to the conference call. (*Fitser*, Abstract, col. 1, lines 46-50)

Fitser also does not teach or suggest the elements of amended claim 1, as recited above. Indeed, *Fitser* describes a method for automatically establishing a conference call to a preselected list of participants by selecting a particular one of a subscriber's records based on an entered group identifier; causing bridge hardware to originate calls to each of the destinations specified in the record; and bridging each of the called participants into the conference call with the subscriber, without suggesting that after one of the subscriber's records is selected, then updating the participants' telephone numbers with current telephone numbers if the selected subscriber's record includes current telephone numbers that differ from the participants' telephone numbers. Thus, *Fitser* also fails to teach or suggest using multiple communication addresses for a participant and determining a current communication address from the addresses for the participant.

Moreover, *Fitser* also does not suggest "if the participant profile data does not include the current participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics, then automatically updating the extracted participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics with the current participant communication address from the participant profile data." Therefore, the method described by *Fitser* is completely distinct and different from the method claimed by the Applicants in amended claim 1.

Finally, the Action relies on the teaching of *Hackbarth* to attempt to cure the deficiencies of *Larson* and *Fitser*, but *Hackbarth* also fails to teach or suggest a method of automatically establishing a conference as recited by claim 1. *Hackbarth* discloses a process for establishing a type of virtual conference that can be monitored by participants without requiring them to be actively a part of the conference call (*Hackbarth*, Abstract, par. 0006). While *Hackbarth* describes using "presence" information for participants, the cited reference specifically states that presence clients' only interaction with the system is to make requests of the User Agent, which are HTTP requests. Presence clients are not responsible for managing any communication, such as conference calls or application sharing (*Hackbarth*, par. 0123, 124). Hence, *Hackbarth* does also not teach or suggest using multiple communication addresses for a participant and determining a current communication address from the addresses for the participant, or if the participant profile

data does not include the current participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics, then automatically updating the extracted participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics with the current participant communication address from the participant profile data.

Thus, *Larson*, *Fitser*, and *Hackbarth* fail to teach or suggest individually or in combination features of the Applicants' amended claim 1. Amended claim 1 is therefore in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Amended claim 16 includes similar features as in amended claims 1. Therefore, amended claim 16 is allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Amended independent claims 16 and 27 include similar features to amended claim 1 as discussed above. Therefore, amended claims 16 and 27 are allowable for at least the same reasons as for amended claim 1.

Claims 1-2, 4, and 7-15 depend from amended independent claim 1. Claims 17, 18, 20, 23-26, and 28-31 depend from amended independent claim 16. Thus, dependent claims 1-2, 4, 7-15, 17, 18, 20, 23-26, and 28-31 are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to amended claims 1 and 16.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application and allowance of the claims at an early date are hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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